The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1604 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 1

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We hail the spirit of unity which now unites the American labor movement and is growing stronger every day.

In this war crisis, a united labor front at home is essential to efficiency, to all-out production and to ultimate victory.

It is deeply reassuring to the American people that organized labor is ready to help America by forgetting its differences, at least for the duration of the struggle.

While America is at war against the enemies of freedom and democracy, it would be folly for Americans to continue contending against each other. This compelling truth was admirably stated by President Green, in his radio address Jan. 4 when he said:

"As long as this war lasts, there cannot and there will not be any fundamental differences among Americans. Every single one of us is fighting for the same cause. Each and every one of us is fighting against the same enemy. Until that enemy is crushed, Americans will stand shoulder to shoulder united in a patriotic spirit that transcends all other considerations."

Signs Point to Unity

True, no official, permanent peace has as yet been established between the AFL and the CIO. True, no official, temporary truce has yet been formally reached.

But for all that, the signs are many and convincing that an informal, tacit armistice is in effect.

For instance, we find the CIO in full accord with the AFL in such vital matters of legislative policy as opposition to the Smith Bill, to other anti-labor measures and to war-profiteering schemes.

Also we find the AFL and CIO delegations at the recent deliberations of the War Labor Conference Board in full accord on a joint program of war labor policy which was finally adopted, even though the industry delegates may have entertained some mental reservations.

And now, we find in the newspapers photographs of President Green and President Murray of the CIO in amicable conference with Secretary of Labor Perkins and photographs of the two union leaders shaking hands.

Even more significant, we find such photographs published in CIO publications.

We say that is significant because, we must admit, there has been some lingering doubt in our minds as to just what the CIO leadership intended doing and how far it could be expected to go toward burying the hatchet.

We entertained no such doubts as to the AFL's policy because it has been forthright and outspoken. At the very outset of the war, the special meeting of AFL officers and union executives called by President Green came out with a hearty renewal of overtures for resumption of AFL-CIO peace negotiations.

We'll Take Half a Loaf

Frankly, when no response to these overtures was forthcoming, our hopes of unity sank. But the other developments of the past few weeks have renewed our optimism.

If we can't get the full loaf, we are ready to take half. If the CIO is shy about coming right out and saying it intends to stop its destructive raiding tactics, we are willing to let its performance speak.

We fully understand the elements of embarrassment in the situation. We don't want to augment them. We are not looking to force the issue if there is a chance of success by the more gradual approach.

Before the outbreak of war, the CIO was a million miles away from the AFL. The extent of separation has now been materially reduced. Each step closer helps. If the CIO does not want us to see it take these steps, we will obligingly look the other way. But at the same time, we want to make it clear that we are and always have been willing to meet it more than half way. We are not bashful about it, but in the interests of unity we won't try to hurt the other fellow's feelings.

There are certain hazards in the situation which we are not overlooking, however. Apparently, the war has helped to solidify the dissident elements in the CIO. Apparently, the isolationists, the interventionists and the Communists now are traveling in the same path. But strange things happen during wars. We cannot forget that Stalin and Hitler once were able to reach an agreement. It is still within the realm of possibility that such a thing may happen again. We need not speculate on what the consequences might be, but we will remain on the alert.

OPM National Labor Supply Policy Board Named; Flemming Is Chairman

Washington, D. C.—Lieut. Col. Frank J. McSherry was designated deputy director for labor supply and training in the enlarged labor division of the Office of Production Management.

At the same time, Sidney Hillman, associate director general of the OPM, appointed a national labor supply policy committee, composed of management and six labor leaders, to be responsible for policies to govern the war-time mobilization of industrial workers. Arthur S. Flemming, member of the Civil Service Commission and chief of the labor supply branch of the OPM, was appointed chairman.

Other members of the committee are as follow:

Representing Labor—Frank P. Fenton, director of organization, A.F.L.; John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department, A.F.L.; George Masterton, president of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters, A.F.L.; Clinton S. Golden, director of the Northeastern region for the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, C.I.O.; Walter P. Reuther, United Automobile Workers of America, C.I.O.; John Green, president of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, C.I.O.

Representing Management—R. Randall Irwin, director of industrial relations of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation; R. Conrad Cooper, assistant vice president of the Wheeling Steel Corporation; R. E. Gillmor, president of the Sperry Gyroscope Company, Inc.; William Finkl, president of A. Finkl & Sons Company; L. Clayton Hill, vice president and general manager of the Murray Corporation of America; R. D. Bell, president of the Alabama Dry Dock Company.

C. C. C. Has Trained 665,000 Men For National Defense Employment

Washington, D. C.—An aggregate of 665,000 young men, veterans, Indians and territorials have received training useful in national defense in Civilian Conservation Corps camps since President Roosevelt declared a limited emergency in May, 1940, Assistant Director Kenneth O. Appel announced in a report to Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

Mr. McEntee listed the following numbers of men in some of the types of jobs available in CCC camps, the men having received training in such jobs over the last eighteen months:

Operators of tractors, trucks, power shovels, drag lines, air hammers, crushers and other heavy equipment, and maintenance men—83,824.

Road construction workers, bridge builders—75,000.

Building construction men (including workers in concrete, practical carpenters, stone masons, painters, electricians and plumbers)—34,606.

Clerks, warehousemen, cooks and bakers, mess and supply sergeants and infirmary attendants—20,528.

Welders, blacksmiths, firemen, saw sheers, sawmill men—16,961.

Blasters and quarry workers—15,882.

Telephone-line construction workers and radio operators—12,875.

Surveyors, map makers, map readers and draftsmen—3,800.

Describing the CCC's participation in special defense training in cooperation with State Departments of Vocational Training and Federal Agencies, Mr. McEntee said that, as of Nov. 22, a total of 4,406 courses in various subjects as motor mechanics, metal work, woodworking, elementary electricity, welding and airplane work, training had been established in camps, at nearby vocational schools or at privately owned shops. An aggregate of 64,682 have been enrolled in these courses.

Of the 665,000 men enrolled in the corps over the eighteen-month period, 100,000 left the corps to accept private jobs or to enter the armed forces prior to completing their terms of enrollment.

At an average age of junior enrollees was 18½ years, and about 70 per cent of the new men entering the corps during the year were 19 or 19 years of age. Eighty-three per cent of the young men in the corps were in their "teens."

Wage Boost And Vacations Awarded To Teamsters By Mediation Board

Washington, D. C.—Pay increases of 10 cents an hour and four-tenths of a cent a mile were awarded by the National Defense Mediation Board to 50,000 truck drivers in twelve Mid-Western states.

The board also ordered six-day annual vacations with pay in settling a controversy between the American Federation of Labor International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Central States Employers' Negotiating Committee of Chicago. The dispute was submitted to the board on Nov. 18 for arbitration.

In agreeing to submit the dispute to the board, the teamsters' union called off a strike threatened for Nov. 25, which would have affected about 225,000 employees of 800 trucking concerns in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

William H. Davis, board chairman, said a six-man panel had voted the award unanimously and that it would be retroactive to Nov. 16, the date the old contract expired. Under terms of that agreement, basic pay for the teamsters was 80 cents an hour and three cents a mile. The new agreement will run for two years.

The dispute was the second largest, in number of men involved, ever to be certified to the board, and was the most important in which the Mediation Board has agreed previously to accept the board's decision as final.

It was just four days before Thanksgiving Day that President Daniel J. Tobin of the Teamsters notified President Roosevelt that the Union was willing to submit the dispute to the board. The President replied:

"You appear to me the spirit of fair play and patriotism which I have always believed existed in the hearts and minds of American labor and unionism. What a fine Thanksgiving it would be for us all if leaders in other fields of labor would but follow your example."

American Teamsters Ride Burma Road Bringing War Supplies To China

Washington, D. C.—Seventeen hundred American teamsters are riding the Burma Road, keeping the lifeline of liberty open to the gallant defenders of China and daily defying death from Japanese bombers.

This was revealed by Richard J. Beamish, member of the Pennsylvania Utility Commission, who said these union workers had left to give up their comparatively safe jobs at home at the call of the Government to take up the dangerous duty of keeping supplies rolling to China.

The men are working under the leadership of Clarence Bowman, a former Philadelphia truck driver. Beamish said American teamsters were needed for the job because they were tough enough to keep going under punishing conditions.

The Japanese raiding planes are exacting a heavy toll of death on the Burma Road, but the trucks driven by American teamsters are still rolling in steady procession. More teamsters are on the way to the Orient to take the place of their comrades who have fallen and still more are ready to go and do their bit toward smashing the Japs.

Maritime War Emergency Unit Named; Considers War Risk Insurance, Bonus

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of Dr. John R. Steelman of the Department of Labor, Captain Edward Macauley of the United States Maritime Commission and Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, as members of the new Maritime War Emergency Board was announced by Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Maritime Commission chairman.

The board, which is set up as the result of a petition to the President by the Maritime Labor Conference on Dec. 19, is empowered by agreement reached by employers and employes in the Labor Conference Board to settle differences that may arise between sea-going personnel and operators of American merchant ships. It is also to establish war areas and determine a proper uniform basis for payment of war-risk insurance on the lives of crew members and war bonuses to be paid to crews on ships operating in the war areas.

The board will meet, under the chairmanship of Captain Macauley, to consider testimony and evidence presented in hearings on war bonus payment. Announcement recently was made that its decision will be retroactive to Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, the date of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and that war-risk insurance in the amount of $5,000 per man has been effective since Dec. 22.

The Maritime Labor Conference between employers and employes, which was set up by both the Maritime Commission and the Department of Labor, in addition to asking the President to appoint the board, agreed there would be no strikes or lockouts during the war period, that all rights guaranteed to labor and industry under collective bargaining will be retained and all agreements and obligations in existence will in no way be violated.

300,000 Ohio AFL Members Pledge All-Out Program Supporting War

Columbus, Ohio.—Six hundred delegates representing three hundred thousand men and women in the Ohio State Federation of Labor adopted a broad program providing for an all-out war effort by A. F. of L. members at a special meeting held by the Federation here.

One resolution pledged the united and unreserved loyalty and support of members to President Roosevelt and Congress in their prosecution of the war against the Axis powers.

Another asked every member of organized labor in Ohio to buy and continue to buy defense bonds to the limit of his financial ability.

Others urged Governor Bricker to give proper representation to members of the Federation on state and local war boards and commissions and asked President Roosevelt to create a war labor board to settle any disputes that may arise by conciliation, mediation or arbitration.

The conference favored a proposal for each union member to donate one day's pay to the government in addition to purchase of defense bonds and stamps. The delegates were instructed to present the proposal to each local union.

Federation spokesmen declared that the state A. F. of L. machine will strike up defense jobs in line with the national policy announced by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

M. J. Lyden, president of the State Federation of Labor, said labor would accept its responsibility and would be willing to accept necessary sacrifice so that political and industrial freedom will be saved for posterity.

PENNSYLVANIA JOBLESS AID LAW IS HELD VALID

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Law enacted by the State Legislature in 1936. Since its enactment $185,000,000 has been accumulated for workers who lose their jobs. The case was carried to the Supreme Court by a manufacturer in York, Pa., who contended that the law, which requires employers to pay an unemployment compensation tax on earnings of their employees, violated the Federal Constitution against taxing interstate commerce.

D. OF C. LABOR UNIONS AID NATIONAL DEFENSE

Washington, D. C.—Unions affiliated with the District of Columbia Central Labor Union have bought $307,500 of national defense bonds, officials of the central body announced.

MEMPHIS UNIONS LEAD DEFENSE BONDS DRIVE

Memphis, Tenn.—Memphis Trades and Labor Council has taken the lead in a campaign to sponsor billboards urging the purchase of U. S. Defense Bonds and Defense Savings Stamps as a good will measure. Beside the billboards, several affiliated unions have signified their intentions of participating in the campaign in which members of the boards will be instated, each union or group sponsoring an individual board for a period of 30 days.

Lev G. Loring, president of the council, endorsed the program and said that he believed it would be a good will gesture on the part of organized labor if taken up on a nation-wide basis.

Illustrations on the boards, to be changed monthly, urge the public to purchase U. S. Defense bonds and stamps, the name of the sponsoring organization appearing prominently at the bottom of the board.

News Briefs

STRIKE BAN ESTABLISHED BY BLACKSMITHS UNION

Chicago, Ill.—President Roy Horn and Secretary-Treasurer William P. Kramer of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths laid down a rigid "no-strike" policy for the entire membership in a letter sent to all locals.

"There positively must be no strikes in any industry working even in the most remote way on products for the defense of our country," their letter warned.

"When differences take place between our members and their employers, our members must remain at work, and we will use the machinery that our government provides for that purpose, to settle them.

"We now have a real job, that of defeating our enemies and seeing to it that liberty is preserved, not only for us but for future generations."

DOUBLE TIME IS YIELDED BY KNOXVILLE AFL UNION

Knoxville, Tenn.—Federal Labor Union No. 21754, composed of Fulton Sulphon Co. employes, voted unanimously to waive during the emergency the provision of their contract which would require double-time pay for Sundays and holidays.

Instead of double-time rate, time and a half will be paid. Jack W. Turrentine, publicity chairman, explained that the change is to put into effect a seven-day work week and to cooperate with the county and government in defense. Furton's is a vital defense firm.

The membership recently bought a $1000 defense bond, authorized the purchase of another in January, and others in the same denomination periodically.

$700,000 DEFENSE BONDS PURCHASED BY MUSICIANS

New York, N. Y.—The American Federation of Musicians and its affiliated local unions have bought nearly $700,000 in United States and Canadian defense bonds, Petrillo W. Birnbach, secretary of the group, announced. In addition to the purchases out of union treasuries, the top-flight band and orchestras have instituted cooperative programs for buying a bond each week, Mr. Birnbach said.

As a further evidence of the union's desire to promote the war effort, arrangements are being made with President James C. Petrillo to have more than 200 bands appear without charge at military camps in all parts of the country.

NEW YORK CITY PAINTERS WAIVE DOUBLE PAY RULE

New York, N. Y.—As a contribution to civilian defense, District Council 9 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, A. F. of L., agreed to waive a rule calling for double pay on night work in doing emergency painting for the government departments, public buildings and other structures in which most of the work has to be done after business hours.

Union officials made clear that their willingness to accept a night shift rate of $2.25 an hour, instead of the $3.20 an hour that would be required under the regular scale, would apply only to buildings in which it was impracticable to carry on the major part of the work during the day.

JOB INSURANCE PAYMENTS INCREASE IN 30 STATES

Washington, D. C.—Paul V. McNutt, Federal security administrator, reported that job-insurance payments increased in 30 states during November, reflecting unemployment due to the curtailment of manufacturing and temporary lay-offs in plants retooling for war production, plus the normal seasonal increase in unemployment.

However, decreases in such payments in the other 18 states more than offset the increases, and job-insurance disbursements for the whole country declined in November to a new low of $21,066,400.

CLARENCE E. SWICK DIES; PAINTERS UNION OFFICIAL

Lafayette, Ind.—Clarence Eugene Swick, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, died at his home here January 4 after an illness of several weeks. He was 64 years old.

Mr. Swick had been an officer of the brotherhood thirty-three years.

SEAFARERS SUPPORT WAR ON AGGRESSORS

New York, N. Y.—Complete unity of purpose with the President of the United States in the all out war against the Japanese aggressors and their criminal allies, was voted in the mass Coast ports by members of the Seafarers International Union of North America, Atlantic and Gulf District.

AFL Will Stop At Nothing To Help America Win War, Green Pledges

Federation President Urges United American Drive to Victory in Radio Address

Washington, D. C.—President William Green pledged to the nation that the five million members of the American Federation of Labor have enlisted for the duration of the war on the industrial front and will let nothing stand in the way of complete victory for America over the Axis powers.

Mr. Green's patriotic declaration was broadcast over the Mutual System as part of a symposium from leaders of labor, industry and government entitled "United America Looks Ahead To 1942." The text of Mr. Green's address follows:

"I speak here tonight for five million American working men and women whose sons and brothers and loved ones are fighting on America's battle fronts for the defense of our country and our way of life.

"These workers are not called upon to bear arms themselves—they are making them. They are building the ships, tanks, airplanes and guns that America must have to defeat the forces of barbarism which are trying to destroy us. They are producing all the implements of war necessary to equip our Army and our Navy and our air fleets.

"In a very important sense, these workers are fighting for America. They are fighting on America's home front. Their skill, their strength and their devotion service are just as essential to victory as the fighting ability of our armed forces.

"I am proud to be able to say to you that the great army of workers represented by the American Federation of Labor is unmatched anywhere in the world today. With high hearts and willing hands they approach the task of the New Year resolutely determined that nothing shall stand in the way of complete victory for America in this war.

"Our men and women know this is a war of free human beings against slavery. It is labor's war. It is America's war.

"They have but one thought and one resolution in mind—that this war must be won as quickly as possible. It will end the members of the American Federation of Labor will work to the limit of their endurance. They will produce the materials of war as the workers of no other nation have ever produced. They will cheerfully make every sacrifice the Government calls upon them to make.

"American labor and American industry are now marching hand in hand with the Government to speed victory by assuring all-out, uninterrupted defense production. All sides have agreed that there shall be no strikes or lockouts for the duration of the war and that such disputes as may arise will be settled by peaceful means without stopping the wheels of production.

"This is a great step forward and it demonstrates the willingness of labor and industry to do everything possible for the advancement of America's cause. Inspired by a single purpose, bound together by a single loyalty and proud above all to be Americans, we can face the common foe united and unconquerable. .

"As long as this war lasts, there cannot and there will not be any fundamental differences among Americans. Every one of us is fighting for the same cause. Each and every one of us is fighting against the same enemy. Until that enemy is crushed, Americans will stand shoulder to shoulder united in a patriotic spirit that transcends all other considerations.

"Let us know Hitler and his fellow dictators that the spirit of patriotism burns clear and unquenchable in the hearts of all Americans. Let our enemies see and let them fear. For that spirit cannot be dimmed by treacherous attacks in the night. It cannot be extinguished by blackouts. It cannot be shaken by terroristic bombings of civilians. It grows in defeat and it lights the way to eventual and inevitable triumph.

"Let us also remember at every moment in the months ahead, as the struggle grows ever more bitter and we are called upon to make new sacrifices, the pledge we have taken to each other. Let us remember that we are one nation indivisible. And let us remember that we are fighting for freedom and justice for ourselves and for all."

Special Supplement Coming!

Washington, D. C.—As this edition went to press, President Roosevelt was about to issue an Executive Order establishing a War Labor Board to settle labor disputes by peaceful means, if conciliation fails.

As soon as the makeup of this board, its powers and its plan of procedure are made public, the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service will issue a special supplement to explain the full details.

We especially call this to your attention because it is vitally important that all members of the American Federation of Labor know and understand how this board will operate. It is being created with the full endorsement and approval of the officials of labor so that all strikes can be prevented and that adequate machinery for the just settlement of disputes can be provided for American workers.

Roosevelt Pleads For Fair Deal To Alien Workers In This Country

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt appealed to employers not to discharge workmen because they are aliens or foreign-born citizens, revealing that he is "deeply concerned" about this growing tendency. He pointed out that the sons of some of these "foreigners" may be fighting at Pearl Harbor or in the Philippines.

In a special statement issued from the White House the President declared that the practice of discharging workers sometimes only because they have foreign-sounding names, calling it "stupid as it is unjust." He said such practices were un-American and played into the hands of the enemy.

Informing his press conference of his proposed appeal, which was made in connection with Alien Registration Director Francis Biddle, the President urged that it receive the widest possible publicity.

The President's statement follows:

"I am deeply concerned over the increasing number of reports of employers discharging workers who happen to be aliens or even foreign-born citizens. This is a very serious matter. It is one thing to safeguard American industry, and particularly defense industry, against sabotage; but it is very much another to throw out of work honest and loyal people who, except for the accident of birth, are unquestionably loyal.

"Such a policy is as stupid as it is unjust, and on both counts it plays into the hands of the enemies of American democracy. By discharging loyal aliens or foreign citizens merely because they were born abroad or because they have foreign-sounding names or by refusing to employ such men and women, employers are engendering the very distrust and disunity on which our enemies are counting to defeat-us.

"Remember the Nazi technique: 'Pit race against race, class against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer!'

"We need not let that happen here. We must not forget what we are defending: Liberty, decency, justice. We cannot afford the economic waste of services of all loyal and patriotic citizens and non-citizens in defending our land and their land.

"I urge all private employers to adopt a sane policy regarding aliens and foreign-born citizens, and to remember that the sons of the 'foreigners' they discharged may be among those who fought and are fighting so valiantly at Pearl Harbor or in the Philippines.

"There is no law providing against employment of aliens except in special defense work of a secret nature, and even in such work the employer may hire an alien with the permission of the Army or Navy, depending on the contract."

MACHINISTS ASSOCIATION OUSTS "COMPANY UNION"

Washington, D. C.—The International Association of Machinists announced significant victories in elections for collective bargaining representative among the employes of two New England companies with long anti-union records.

At Stamford, Conn., the Machinists ousted a "company union" in the mechanical department of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company by a majority of nearly four to one, in a National Labor Relations Board election and then launched a campaign to clean out the rest of the plant.

This victory follows a similar triumph at the Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company, Providence, R. I., the nation's largest maker of precision tools. The Machinists won 80 per cent of 5,800 votes cast in a Labor Board poll, and this brought the corporation and the Golden banner for the first time in its 100 years of existence.

Both Yale & Towne and Brown & Sharpe have for years bitterly fought unionism, and their terroristic methods were exposed in detail by the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee.